

NEW PLANTS WILL BE FIRED WITH THE INCOMING YEAR.

Mt. Pleasant Coke Co. Will Start 100 Ovens at Its Latest Operation on the Sewickley Branch.

TO BUILD 300 MORE AT ONCE.

FULTON WINS

West Virginia Courts Give Him \$367,000

**H. C. Davis Will Fire His New 20
Oven Plant in Same Territory—Martin Works in Lower Region Being
Overhauled for Full Resumption**

The Mt. Pleasant Coke Company is finishing 100 new ovens located between Steele No. 3 and Standard on the Sewickley branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad and will place them in operation January 1. Work will be pushed on 300 additional ovens to form units of the same plant which will operate on the coal of 1908 acres of a tract of land secured from the Shaw estate of Pittsburgh. The ovens which will be fired at the first of the year are of the beehive type as it is intended to use the waste heat from them to run boilers and other engines about the plant, which will be one of the largest in the Connellsville region.

Of the 300 ovens to be built, mechanical devices will be used for extracting the coke from the ovens. Plans have been drawn for these ovens and the yards which will be required. These plans provide ample room for the construction of some special type of oven as well as sufficient yard room to handle extracting and loading machinery. The company has not as yet, it is stated, fully decided what kind of device will be used but that some device will be used is the state of mind officially.

Superintendent Robert Hay who now has charge of the lower works of the same company will have the new plant under his supervision. The new plant will be known as the Mt. Pleasant Works. It is a starting operation the coal lying at a depth of 300 feet at this point. The main shaft has been completed and the work of driving into the coal is under way. It is expected to open the coal on a four entry system.

The company will provide unusually good houses for its men. All these houses are to be built of brick and iron blocks have been completed and are ready for occupancy. Up-to-date haulage, probably electrical, will be used in the mine which is to be equipped throughout in a modern and complete manner, to further the ends of the greatest possible safety and economical production.

H. C. Davis of Scottsdale has finished 20 new ovens at Steele on the Sewickley branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad and is rushing work in order to fire them as soon as possible. Thus far Mr. Davis has made a record breaking job of it, having begun work only three weeks ago.

One hundred ovens were fired this week at the Martin plant in the lower region, recently purchased by the Republic Iron & Steel Company through the Woodside Coke Company as a subsidiary corporation. H. M. Wilson, superintendent of the Atchison plant, is to be in charge of the Martin works and has been on the ground for several weeks putting the plant in shape for a complete resumption as soon as is feasible. The entire battery of 198 ovens will be fired during the next few weeks. It was found that the plant required a general overhauling. Much new timbering and renewal of roofs is being done in the mine. A new pumping station is being erected close to the Monongahela river. Mr. Wilson will probably take exclusive charge of the Martin works.

OBJECT LESSONS FOR THE MINERS.

Greensburg Company to Take Employees to Pittsburgh for Tour of Government Laboratories

Seventy employees of Colonel George F. Huff's Keystone Coal & Coke Company are to be taken to Pittsburgh at the company's expense for a day's tour of the new Government test station at the Lawrenceville Arsenal.

Congressman Huff's son, L. B. Huff, manager of the company, arranged with the officials at the station yesterday for the trip. The object of the trip is to give the men in positions of responsibility in the Greensburg plants a chance to see the practical workings of the experiments, and to give them the benefit of a series of object lessons in the use of the oxygen helmets.

Officials at the testing laboratories hope that the Greensburg concern will set the pace for numbers of the big coal companies of Pittsburgh district, whose foremen and bosses could learn much from a tour of the laboratories at the Arsenal.

TURKEY FOR EMPLOYEES

Boys' Porter & Company Will Continue Long Established Custom

It was announced Tuesday that Boys' Porter & Company will carry out its usual custom of presenting Christmas turkeys to all its employees. Potlucks years past this firm has remembered the men on its payroll by donating the festive bird and thus contributing to Christmas cheer in all the homes in the neighborhood of 100 turkeys will be distributed among the force a day or two before Christmas and as in past years these fowl will be as plump and tasty as any to be found in the market.

McClelland Files Bond
The bond of E. H. McClelland, Democratic Commissioner elect, was filed at the court house in the sum of \$8,000 with F. M. Semans Jr., and J. M. Hu

COKE SHIPMENTS TAKE BIG JUMP; GENERAL OUTPUT STILL ON CLIMB.

**Scattering Gains at Many Points Indicate Continuance in Line of Steady Improvement
Throughout Region—Rainfall Has Aided Materially, But More Moisture Is
Needed—Prices Remain Fairly Firm With Tendency Toward Softening.**

Aggregate production increased slightly while shipments moved up decidedly during the week. The exact amount of the increase in shipments over the preceding week amounted to 5,000 cars as will be seen from the following summarized statement. This is a heavy gain in the amount of coke sold, but from the region and while some of it undoubtedly represented spot coke which had accumulated on the railroads, the trend shows as if in a steady general consumption of coke is reflected by a general tide to meet the business conditions. This is in spite of the usual holiday declines in all manufacturing lines.

The tables of production covering the districts form the entire region as found in our inside pages shows some increase at several plants of the H. C. Frick Coke Company and at independent plants as well. Improvement is showing larger in all directions and with the very present evidences of it come announcements of new plants to be placed in operation at the first of the year with others preparing for resumption. The Connellsville region has indeed reason to congratulate itself over the conditions of today as compared with those of one year ago when the district was becoming a center of depression from which it now is emerging.

The tables and shows of the past week have contributed their share to aid operators. Water supplies still remain insufficient for all needs but a great improvement has been made from the rainfall to date and more is hoped for before hard winter weather comes in. Several concerns notably the W. T. Rainey interest would operate to their entire capacity if enough water could be procured. As soon as the Mt. Pleasant Water Company is able to furnish a supply of water to the 4000 works of the Rainey interests will instantly be filled. Taking everything into consideration the present condition is not only distinctly reassuring but holds promise of steady improvement. It will be safe to expect an immediate boom but the immediate concern which has already come in is such a decided and substantial character as to go even beyond the expectations of the more conservative.

Among the changes noted in The Courier last week is the resumption of Alverton No. 2 of the H. C. Frick Coke Company and while the production of this huge concern has been stationary for some time it is not lacking of some improvement before long. The beginning of steel making at the enormous new plant of the United States Steel Corporation at Gary Ind. is which is scheduled for the first of April in the coming year may have a decided effect upon activity in the Connellsville region. Just what the corporation re-

plans are to supply coal and coke for the new plant has not been made public.

During the week the Rainey interests added 50 ovens to their active list 145 being scattered among the plants which that concern has had in operation for some time, showing that the management is steadily increasing its active force to increase shipments by the addition of a few ovens here and there as conditions warrant.

Reports of the operations of the Oliver & Snyder Steel Company at its new plant in the Connellsville region show a steady increase in output and to some good signs rates would tend to be held in blast.

Geo. C. Irwin, Secretary of the Independent Coke Producers Association, says in his report for the week.

A decided but is a general gain in coke last week is evidenced by the summing up of the over production.

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The Weekly Courier.

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PRESENT AND FUTURE
COAL DEVELOPMENTS

The proceedings of the American Mining Congress and current contributions to the literature of the coal industry have been full of warnings concerning the early exhaustion of our fuel beds. There is much unpleasant truth in the statements that have been made. It is incontrovertible that in the rush for rapid accumulation of dollars there has been wanton waste of our natural resources. Valuable by-products have been sacrificed wholesale, although whether this sacrifice has been as bad in the making of coke as has been claimed, is by no means positively established.

Well-known makers of coke men of large interests whose lives have been spent in the industry, as that while by-products do in some cases save valuable material, it is often done at the expense of the coke produced, and that all the constituents of the coal as it is mined are required in the ovens to bring forth the splendid product which has made the fame of the Connellsville product world wide.

There is another side to the discussion now going on.

It is established that underlying the Pittsburgh coal seam are many others, smaller and harder to mine, but they are there. The day will come when all these seams will be mined and with improved methods that may reasonably be expected to come into use as times passes, the cost of such mining may not be as great as now estimated. That it will be greater than the cost of present operations close to the surface of the earth cannot be disputed.

But it must be remembered that England and Germany are taking their coal supplies today from enormous depths going thousands of feet into the earth to follow seams which are almost vertical in some parts of the European continent particularly Germany, and working them on a system of levels similar to the practise in deep copper mines of the West. In spite of these conditions both of the above countries give no sign of lagging in the industrial race.

America will have coal for many hundreds of years but to save now means an extension of the period of our industrial supremacy.

KEEPING TAB
ON MEN IN THE MINE.

Notwithstanding the many improvements in mining mechanized and mining practise a system of keeping correct tab on the men in the mines has not yet been devised.

The Marianna mine was a model of modern improvement, but when it was wrecked by an explosion the company officials were unable to make a list of those who were in the pit, or even to say how many were there. The experience has been the same in all our big mine disasters, and in most of them dead bodies continued to be found days after it was thought that all were accounted for.

It ought not to be difficult to inaugurate a system of checking the men as they enter and leave the pit, especially in view of the fact that in many mines of a gaseous nature it is only a question of short time until all exits and entrances will be required to be guarded, and all persons entering the mine subjected to search, to more effectually safeguard the mine from the reckless use of matches open lights and other things under hand.

THE THREAT OF
INDIAN CREEK COAL.

The reported strike of the coal miners of the Indian Creek Valley is not so remarkable for its industrial extent as for its dire portent to Connellsville's water supply.

The Indian Creek Valley is the natural outlet for the mining operations which with the advent of a railroad may soon be expected. For the most part the Indian creek coal can be shipped, and it will drain into Indian creek.

Indian creek is a tributary of the Youghiogheny emptying into the river a few miles above Connellsville. A large portion of its waters are being taken by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's private water line and thus diverted from the Youghiogheny; this diversion will not always continue, and with the development of the Indian Creek coal the air and will become a source of pollution instead of a source of pure water supply.

While this pollution will mean the deterioration of Connellsville's unequalled water supply it will mean the practical destruction of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's \$6,000,000 or more investment in Indian Creek water.

Under such circumstances it is possible that the Legislature may insist upon coal operators so using their

own property as not to damage or practically destroy that of another in which event we may be spared the evils of a polluted water supply such as our neighboring towns down the river have to bear with and which the State is now making a determined effort to remediate.

The more we study the problems of stream pollution and water desecration the more convinced we are of the truthful folks we have committed other nations as in private life in honorable man would behave toward the public.

Postal savings banks will make it easy for the poorest to keep their savings for absolute safety.

Corporate finances must be supervised to the market value of all means to protect man's property.

There must be prohibition of child labor, diminution of women laboring hours of all in chronic industries, and a protection of the public health.

There should be a progressive income tax on all large fortunes.

There should no longer be any padding with the question of distribution of industrial wealth. It is time all people included in a rich business.

The principle of the right to day labor is right and as such is irreconcilable to those who are trying to keep it.

Any remedy I used on the miners failed which times assume the nature of a social revolution.

The court has been told I am trying to get rid of the miners.

Until the facts are fully ascertained, marshalled in order and presented for consideration together there can be no definite deductions.

THE YOUGH RIVER
GETS ANOTHER HEARING

The Yough river boomers didn't go to Washington to appear before the House Rivers and Harbors Committee at a manifestly improper time, but they did succeed in presenting their case to the Senate Committee on Commerce as a part of the general agitation in favor of the On-to-Cairo movement. It is clear for the Ohio was eloquent for the Youghiogheny diplomatic, for waterways improvement comprehensive.

We insist upon the restoration and extension of slackwater on the Youghiogheny was the keynote, and it was skillfully played with all the variations by Master Musician Wallace. He showed the Senators that the Ohio needed the Youghiogheny.

He enlarged upon the necessity of impounding the flood waters in the hills as well for the prevention of flood damages as for the guarantees of a proper water supply at all seasons. He dwelt upon the possibilities of government revenue and industrial growth from the incidental power development. He led the Senate Committee upon the hills overlooking the Dark Devil Yough and pointed out its wonderful possibilities as a harnessed waterfall.

The people however have confidence in President Roosevelt's honest of purpose in all his acts and we believe their confidence has not been misplaced. The President has made some errors of his head but more of the heart and his confidence does not yield him whitewash.

It is possible that he has lacked in the dignity with which trial has held our chief magistrate in absence that he has lacked in sincerity, truthfulness and honesty is not unlikely that they will insist upon trying the bill off.

Pray at Roosevelt wants to bring it across the hills. It is doubtful whether he is really straining in this matter, but there is no doubt that I rather Charlie and the other have a firm foundation and it is not unlikely that they will insist upon trying the bill off.

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DAMAGE RUNS UP INTO MILLIONS.

Forest Fires Wrought Terrible Havoc in the State of West Virginia.

FIRE IN EVERY COUNTY.

State Spent But Little to Extinguish Them While Individuals Spent Thousands of Dollars—Fire Burn After a Snow Fall.

"The unprecedented destruction this season by forest fires in West Virginia has called the attention of the people as never before, to the necessity of better protection to woods and watershed," says E. B. Maxwell, chairman of the West Virginia Conservation Commission. "The relationship between denuded mountains and floods is better understood than formerly and the problem of a future timber supply has ceased to be a question for academic discussion."

"Every one of the 55 counties had one or more fires, some being small and spreading through a few woodlots, while others covering more than 50,000 acres. The areas burned aggregated 1,700,000 acres, approximately one-fifth of the wooded area of the State. Timber burned amounted to more than \$43,500,000, foot board measure, about 3 per cent of the entire estimated standing timber, large and small, in the State, or two-thirds of the output of all the sawmills of West Virginia in 1907."

"Money losses were heavy. The value of timber burned was \$2,903,500.

There were losses in manufactured lumber, tanbark, building and other improvements amounting to \$490,175.

This year there was an unusually heavy damage to undergrowth and soil, and this has been placed at one toller an acre for every acre burned, making a loss of \$1,703,850 in the State. These losses total up to \$5,697,825.

The reported expenditures by the State and individuals for fire fighting form an interesting contrast to the loss of more than \$5,000,000.

The amount which county treasurers and companies are reported to have spent to suppress fires was only \$646; individuals and companies are reported to have spent about \$89,000.

"The injury to the soil from fire was much more severe this season in West Virginia than ever before, not alone because the burned area was larger than in any former year, but also for the reason that excessive dryness exposed the humus to a great depth. Ground fires have been unusual heretofore in this State, but this season they were common and widespread. Two human lives were lost in the fires.

"Mountain people fought fires in the past, when they fought at all, by raking the leaves and sticks from a fire lane, two or three feet wide and back firing. That method failed this year. Fires crossed the lanes by burning the humus beneath the surface, and then started up on the farther side. The fires burned so deeply in the humus that an unusual phenomenon was presented when a snow fall came early in November. The snow apparently extinguished the fires, but it went away quickly under the influence of a strong, dry wind, and the fires came up and out of the ground and were soon spreading again. I saw an interesting example of this. In the morning the snow in the woods was two inches deep, and no fire was to be seen. Before sunset the snow was gone and the leaves were burning.

"Large tracts of land on the high mountains were denuded of soil down to the rocks. Over much of the area where the Pottsville Conglomerate is the surface formation, there never was much mineral soil. Beds of moss, lichen, leaves and decaying wood formed a covering for the rocks which gave anchorage to the roots of the forest trees. Over extensive tracts, soils of that kind were absolutely destroyed."

FREE COAL IS OPPOSED.

Pittsburghers Appear Before Tariff Committee at Washington.

A delegation of Pennsylvania and West Virginia bituminous coal operators appeared before the tariff committee at Washington Thursday.

The Pittsburgh Coal Company was represented by W. B. Woodford and Cyrus E. Woods, Keystone Coal Company by Representative George F. Hunt, M. W. Saxton and Robert Castast, the Fairmont Coal Company by former Governor A. B. Fleming, of West Virginia, and the Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Company by B. M. Clarke. These companies have an annual output of over 200,000,000 tons.

Mr. Woodford addressed the committee the others filing briefs. Free coal was opposed, except in the case of Canada, with which country reciprocity was recommended.

Inspect Coke Region Lines.

R. T. Morrow, superintendent of the Pittsburgh division of the Pennsylvania railroad; W. A. Terry, general freight agent of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie; Robert Fursey, general superintendent of the Baltimore & Ohio, and other railroad officials Tuesday inspected the lines in the coke region.

FIELD NEWS IN CONCISE FORM.

William F. Soisson of Connellsville has sold his interest in the Union Connellsville Coke Company, to Jacob H. Lynn of Uniontown. Mr. Lynn owned an interest and this additional stock, gives him a half interest. The property is near Tower Hill, and shafts are being sunk and bids for erection of ovens are being asked.

The Duluth & Iron Range railroad, a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, has ordered \$800,000 car from the Standard Steel Car Company.

Lack of water still prevents the Acme plant of W. J. Rainey from resuming. It will be started as soon as possible.

John P. Stevenson, superintendent of the Magee plant, who has been a reader of The Weekly Courier for 20 years, says there is no paper like the Courier for coke men. Mr. Stevenson is a good thing when he sees it.

One or two blast furnaces at the new plant of the United States Steel Corporation at Gary, Ind., will be started January 1 to provide gas power. During the coming year the new plant will be a point of interest to coke producers as well as steel manufacturers. Its furnaces will consume a big coke tonnage. Steel making will begin about April 1.

Some 40 additional ovens have been added to the active list at the McKeefrey works in the lower region. There is a marked increase in activity in that section.

Governor-elect W. E. Glasscock of West Virginia, at a dinner given during the Mining Institute of that State at Charleston last week, declared he intended to co-operate with the coal industry of his State to make mining safer and to conserve natural resources. Supt. F. C. Keighley of the Oliver & Snyder Steel Company's coke plants made an address on his new method for supporting a mine roof.

Coal thieves at Middletown, Pa., have become so daring that they are changing the signals on the Pennsylvania railroad to hold up freight trains in order to steal coal from the cars. The contents of several cars have been dumped on the tracks by the thieves.

The Davis Colliery Company has fired all of its ovens at Coalton, Hardin and Junior, W. Va., except 50 at Coalton, which will be lit when the water supply increases.

Michael Callahan, a son of the late mine inspector, Bernard Callahan, has been appointed Mine Foreman at the Martin plant in the lower region, recently acquired by the Republic Iron & Steel Company. Mr. Callahan is well known throughout the region.

The jury in the case of C. S. Cochran against Alexander Dempster, W. A. Dibburn and J. E. Barnes last week brought in a verdict of upwards of \$15,000 for the plaintiff, the suit having been for commissions claimed on the sale of West Virginia coal lands. The defendants moved for a new trial.

The H. C. Frick Coke Company has sealed up 252 ovens, comprising 50 plants, 1 plant and it is not expected to resume before next spring, if then. The plant has been idle for many months.

Fred P. Truesdale, special freight agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad for this district, with headquarters at Uniontown, was a visitor in Connellsville during the week.

The rain-drops which fell in such welcome showers during the past few days were gold-dipped for the Connellsville region and the snow helped some. Jupiter Pluvius and Old Boreas have joined forces in a water-stage campaign.

Supt. J. R. Henderson of the Paul plant of W. J. Rainey is much interested in alfalfa as a fodder crop, as the result of a trip he took through the West. Mr. Henderson proposes to plant some fields at Paul in alfalfa next spring as he believes it will thrive in this climate, having made some experiments during the past summer.

The Illinois Central Railroad is experimenting with a mixture of coke and oil as fuel for its locomotives, to abate the smoke nuisance in and about Chicago. Two yard engines are being equipped for trial.

The Coal Trade Journal, a reputable publication, credits the Weekly Courier with its recent article on the subject of "push" ovens. Some publications in the coal field are not so scrupulous.

WILL EXTEND VALLEY ROAD TO JONES' MILLS.

Said That Plans Are Well Under Way to Push Further Work on Indian Creek Valley Railway.

Plans are well under way, it is said, for an extension of the Indian Creek Valley Railroad from its present terminals at Rogers' Mills to Jones' Mills. This is another step in the ultimate intention to extend the road to Ligonier.

The next extension, it is said, will tap the rich coal fields of the Indian Creek Valley Coal & Coke Company, in which D. B. Zimmerman and the Melions of Pittsburg are said to be interested. This coal has been practically worthless heretofore because of the total lack of shipping facilities. The railroad, of which Charles F. Hood of Connellsville is president, will afford an outlet for coal mined on this property and will result in its development.

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Oliver & Snyder Steel Co., Plants 1 and 3.	Calgary Coal & Coke Co., 920
Austin Coal & Coke Co., Plants 2 and 3.	750 and 800
Colonial Coke Company, Smeck	H. C. Frick Coke Co., Yorktown, Shoaf and Bitner, 1,000
	Struthers Coal & Coke Co., Fairbank Works, 160

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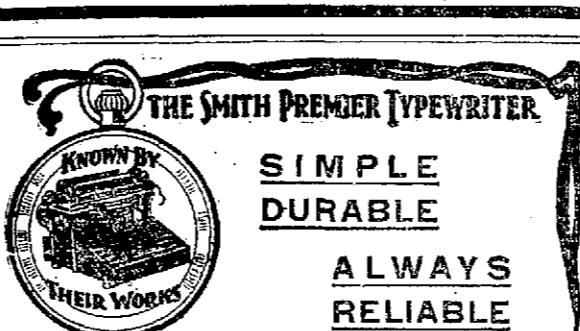
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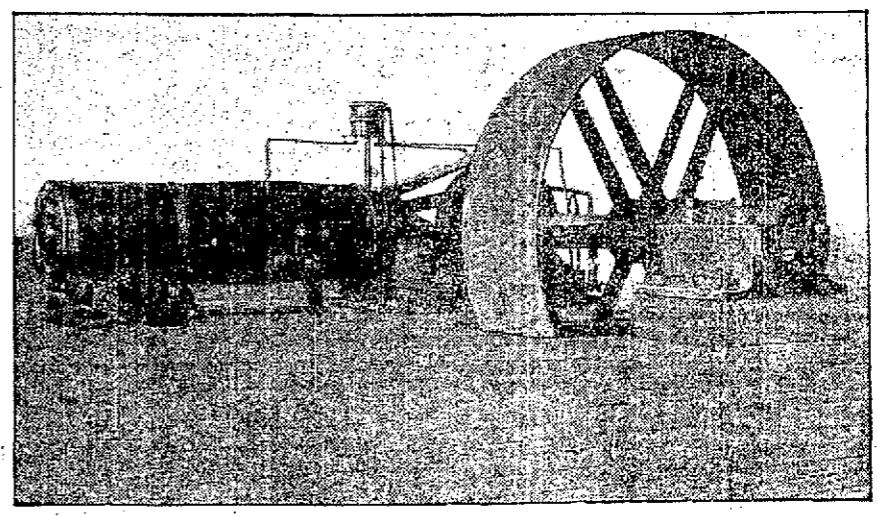
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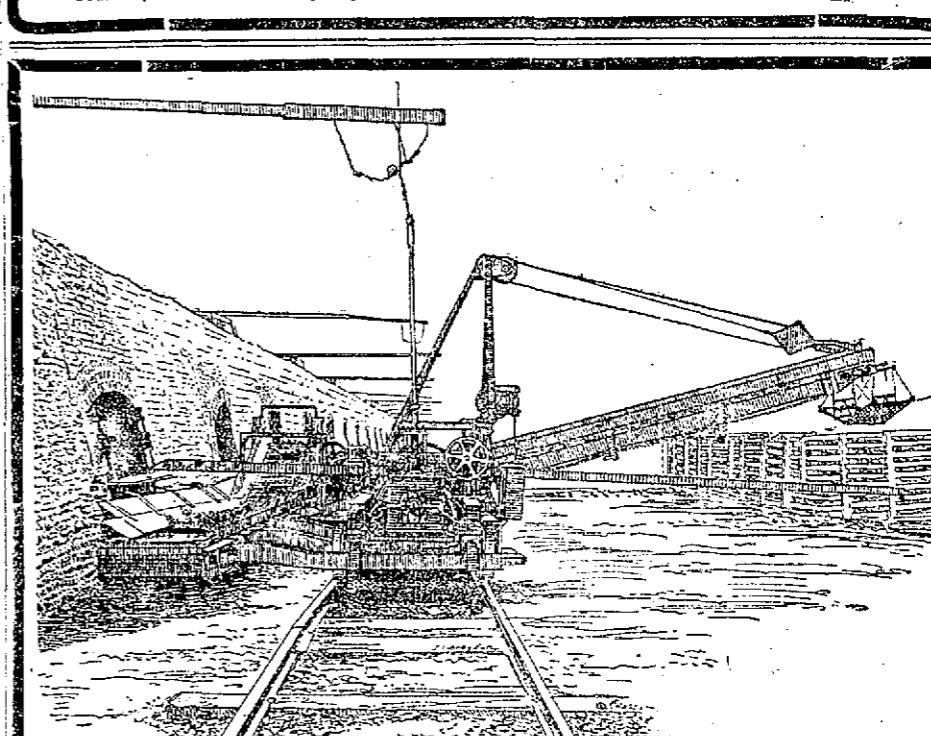
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